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Titusville Amateur Radio Club

# TARC NEWSLETTER

July 1989

**Officers**
President: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779
Vice Pres: Bob Nedimeyer W4VQB 269-1878
Secretary: Dennis Wren N4SDI 269-1762
Treasurer: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

## TNX
by Wayne KB4YLY

Where do I start??? With a turnout that I didn't expect, I'm a bit lost for words, but I guess Field Day 1989 is about the best starting point.

I'm not much of a contester but then Field Day isn't a contest. Or at least it isn't suppose to be. But much like Christmas, Field Day has lost it's original intent. It has progressed from an emergency communications site to a point gathering frenzy. And I too have been caught up in the hoopla.

Last year I invisioned a herd of beam antennas, rigs and a platoon of operators. That dream came true. I imagined the pressbox full of hard working hams doing what they do best. Then I invisioned the floor dropping out of the pressbox. I decided to go with two operating areas. Dennis, N4SDI, liked that idea better since his chair is not equiped with air brakes....

A special Thank You goes to **Mrs. Weir**, wife of silent key, **Harold, K4RLK**, to which our 40 meter antenna and much of the setup would not be possible. Mrs. Weir, you are a real trooper. She helped me remove the antennas from her husbands tower. This year's Field Day event is dedicated to you. The disassembly team included **Wynn, WB4ZUY, Dave, WB4SIG,** and Mrs. Weir's son. TNX.

With some flak from my wife I tore down and cleaned up the antenna pieces. Her main concern was "None of this is going on your tower, right?". Over the months members of the club brought by all sorts of odds and ends. Construction started and the first antenna to emerge was the 40 meter beam. It's ungainly 66 foot spread was a spectacle. **Doug, N4QVY**, came over and helped with the suspension making the final assembly complete. **Ron, KB4DCZ**, and myself removed our respective 10 meter and 15 meter beams. And **Wynn, WB4ZUY**, added his tribander for use on 20 meters. The final antenna was to be an inverted Vee which was donated by **Gene, WD4IZU**. To these hams, KB4DCZ, WB4ZUY, N4QVY, and WD4IZU, TNX.

A special TNX goes to **Archie, WN3DHI**, for his extra effort powering our 5A station. Without his skills, knowledge and dedication we would be hard pressed at

See **TNX** back page.

## President's Corner
"Open Mouth and Insert Foot"

I don't know who coined the phrase "It Can't Be Done", but when Wayne, KB4YLY, announced the TARC would operate class 5A during this year's Field Day exercises, ole your's truly shook his head and repeated over and over "...it can't be done... we don't have enough people for class 5A operations... we need to back off to say 3A... but not 5A. Well as you all know all five stations hummed full bore with volunteers standing by for a turn at the mike or key. So the tremendous effort by the club through Wayne's leadership has resulted in what is most likely TARC's finest Field Day activity to date. Thanks to Vickie, Ron, and Al for the food preparation.

On the night of July 4, many of the club members donated their time in support of the JayCees presentation of the annual fireworks display. Next Tuesday (July 25), the Titusville City Council has on its agenda the discussion as to whether the JayCees will continue to oversee and manage the traditional 4th of July fireworks.

It seems as though one of our city fathers feels that the

See **Open Mouth** on back.

**Upcoming Events**

> **July 25 (6:30 P.M.)**, August 22 – next TARC meetings, JayCees Building on Singleton Ave.
> Every Thursday night – TARC Friendship Net, 7 p.m., 146.91 MHz (–600)
> Every Saturday night – Local RTTY Net, 6 p.m., 147.555 MHz
> 3rd Saturday of each month – SBARC / ARRL exams, 9:30 a.m. registration, FIT room Q22 in The Quad (under ham radio mast). For info call Jim Larson, home phone 768–1954 evenings.
> March 23–25, 1990 (tentative) – Orlando Hamcation, Orange County Civic Center (I–4, Exit 29)
> **August 11 – Deadline** for articles to be included in the August edition of the *TARC Newsletter.*

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# The Best of Times, the Worst of Times

By Val, WB4ZUZ copyright 1989

All the members of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club were prepared for Field Day. Wayne and Ozzie had done a lot of work to get ready, and the Hams were prepared to man the transmitters for a successful event.

Coming in Saturday afternoon to sit behind a transceiver is the best of times. They are the times we all live for. The worst of times is all the thankless jobs that make Field Day possible.

The worst of times starts about 8:00 Field Day morning. Wayne announced he had enough help, so Wynn and I were not really needed for antenna erection. We showed up around 10:00 with the transceiver we promised to bring. There was a good crowd there, anxious to work. We expected to help put finishing touches on antennas, but found that only the 40 Meter antenna had been installed. Of course the antennas we used this year were much nicer than antennas we had used in the past. Most of them went up effortlessly. That is, if you don't count the blazing sun and the blinding reflection off the new aluminum bleachers.

Two hours later the 80 meter antenna was installed, and progress was being made on all the antennas. Just when everyone was thinking that we were almost done, it started to rain. We began covering the pressbox with a tarp we brought along. That sounds like such a simple task, doesn't it? After several false starts, a trip to Walmart, and acrobatics rivaled only by the Flying Wallendas, the whole pressbox was covered with tarps. The tarps were covered with exhausted Hams, and the Hams were covered with a constant drizzle of rain. The 15/20 meter tent also got a tarp, in a death defying stunt by Bud, me, and a really dull pocket knife, which I subsequently stole.

We spent a long time wrestling with tarps, and at T–15 minutes and counting, Wayne reviewed the status: not all the antennas had been installed, none had been checked out, and the auxilliary power had not yet arrived. But Archie and Harry arrived just in time so we could have power by 2:00, and all the antennas checked out fine.

At 2:04 the first entry went down on a log sheet. The best of times were about to begin. The setup Wayne arranged was convenient: 15 and 20 meters in the tent meant less congestion in the pressbox. The press box, from west to east, had 40, 80, and 10 meters, with Ozzie near the door with his points–rich jumbles of digital stuff. And because we were 5A this year, we did not have to keep constant tabs on the number of transmitters on the air at a time.

There were lots of people milling around, it was good to see a lot of familiar and unfamiliar faces turn out. Some came to contest, others to eat chips, drink Coke and just watch the fun. Everyone had a good time while racking up bundles of points. The rain even stopped.

Wynn and I ran home to catch a nap, in anticipation of the graveyard shift. We returned after 6:00 in the evening. We had a bite of dinner. I was prepared for cold hot dogs, so hot, crispy chicken was a real treat. I wish I had noticed the iced tea....

There was a lot of activity on 20, 40, and 80 meters. 10 and 15 hung in there until around 9:30, so we even got our money's worth out of them. I monopolized 40 meters working CW at 10 wpm. (Because it's MY transceiver, that's why). 40 meters was packed. Once, I heard a CQ but didn't notice it was not a Field Day station. So I talked to Farmer Ted for ten minutes. It was a pleasant diversion, it also gave me a clear spot on the band to use when the QSO was over. It pays to be a nice guy.

There was a surprising number of operators, even at 11:00, so Wynn and I went out for a pizza for the dedicated group. Little Caesar's won't win any awards, but both large pepperoni pizzas got eaten. At that time of night, even the diehard health food nuts will dive into a pizza.

Wynn had brought his laptop computer and began typing in entries from completed log sheets. At 2:00 there were still operators waiting to get on the air, but all the transceivers were tied up. I went home for a nap. Wynn stuck around thinking that soon all the operators would bail out. Then he would be left there alone to guard the equipment and work as many stations as he could, as he and Ozzie had done last year.

But the time never came! This dedicated group of night owls kept the transceivers busy all night. Wynn never did get a chance to get on the air. Just as well, though, he would rather compute than transmit anyway. And the points racked up on 80, 40, and 20 through the night really made a difference this year.

The vampires edged toward home as light appeared in the sky. Lots of clean, crisp operators arrived as relief. What a relief. The best of times were beginning again. There was a lot of activity on all the bands Sunday morning, and very few stations were declaring us duplicates. There were pancakes for breakfast and everyone enjoyed a short stack.

Very dedicated operators kept working until the the worst of the worst of times begin: striking the set. As each antenna came down, another operator was off the air. Taking the antennas down was not a big job, but it is anticlimactic and everyone was tired. Even after the antennas were down, the transmitters must be carried out to cars, the tent had to come down, and the tarps had to be removed. Papers, pens, clip boards, and steaming half–drunk cups of coffee searched for their owners.

Hot and tired, the press box was locked and we all got out of there at 12:30. But it was fun, and worth all the work. I guess Field Day is a lot like pizza. When it's good, it's very, very good. And when it's bad, it's still pretty good.

## Minutes of the June 27 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Bud (K4CWG) at 1:04. Wayne (KB4YLY) thanked everyone who helped on field day, then passed out forms for the special event station to those that wanted them. If anyone has questions on this give Wayne a call.

Bud (K4CWG) had the visitors and members introduce themselves. It was brought up that since field day had occured before the meeting some of the expenses had not been pre-approved. A motion was made and passed to approve these expenses. The previous month's minutes were read and accepted.

Les (K4SJC) reported the painting party showed up to paint the repeater hut and found that the city had already painted it. Bud (K4CWG) explained how some of the newsletters had been printed upside down. Ozzie (N4SCY) had a bulletin he had gotten on packet on a person who was nominated to the FCC and why they should not accepted. Wynn (WB4ZUY) brought up that the club should look to buying a 10 or 20 meter beam for next field day. Steve (KB4MXO) said he had a 15 meter beam that could be cut to work on 10 meters that the club could have. A motion was then made, and passed, to buy a 20 meter beam by next field day.

Les (K4SJC) reported he had received the crystals for the GE radio so he can now work on it. Art (KH6GH) gave a report on the civil defense. Bud (K4CWG) brought up burning the flag and a heated debate took place. The treasury report of $25.77 petty cash and $418.25 check account was read and accepted.

Wynn (WB4ZUY) reported on the repeater logic package and also why some people have trouble using the phone patch. Ron (N4SCZ) reported on feeding everyone at field day, also said that the extra food went to the Salvation Army.

Les (K4SJC) reported that the repeater had been on low power as the amplifier had blown a fuse. There will be a mod done so that if there is a power outage the power amplifier will go off-line and the repeater will run low power to preserve the backup batteries. Wynn (WB4ZUY) said that it looked like TARC scored 2878 points for field day.

- Dennis / N4SDI

### Classifieds

> For sale or trade: Hygain TH6DXX 10/15/20 beam antenna, good condition, new caps, $300 OBO -- Ron Swank, KB4DCZ, 269-3087.

> For sale: Yaesu FT-727 Dual Band HT, 2 batteries, AC charger, mobile charger, speaker mike, case, $275 firm -- Clyde Lee, K4EOS, 267-9375.

> For Sale: Kenwood TS-520 HF Transceiver w/mike, $400 -- Al Vassoler, WD4RR, 267-1045.

> Estate Sale: Horizon VHF FM marine transceiver, $50, marine antenna, $10, microphones (T-UG8), $30, Hygain rotator controllers (no rotators), $50 ea, MFJ-250 Versaload (2 KW dummy load), $25, TV-1000 LPF, $15, Simpson VOM, $20, Kenwood 2M 45W mobile, $200, Tri-band beam antenna, $100, {Yuasa class 2 tranformer, 12V FM receivers, Simpson transceiver, novice 20M transmitter, Swan transformer, 100s of feet of coax cable, Kenwood tone unit, Amphenol connectors}, best offer -- Alan, 267-0964.

## RTTY NET ON 2 METERS
by Ozzie N4SCY

A new net is starting up in the Titusville area. It is a RTTY (Radio TeleTYpe) n et for those of with RTTY equipment, but who don't have the HF rigs to exercise it properly. The net will be held on Saturday's at 1800 Local time on 147.555.

This frequency is the one used by the ARRL station W1AW for transmitting the dig ital bullitins via Packet, RTTY, and AMTOR (AMateur Telex Over Radio). Since it is in the 2 meter band, one can assume that they may possibly reach as far as Bo ston and New York City with these signals. With FEC (Forward Error Correcting) A MTOR, it probebly IS possible to get that far!

Net Control will be Ozzie N4SCY, who has decided to stir this hornets nest. The net will begin with RTTY at 45 baud. We'll be learning as we go along, and if yo u have another radio, keep it tuned to the 91 machine for coordinating these exp eriments. See you Saturday night!

## Field Day Stats
by Wynn Rostek WB4ZUY

Well another field day has come and gone, and this time since we were (well, really Ozzie was) better organized, we had the results much quicker. Last year we had about 650 contacts. This year we had 940 contacts. Next year we shoot for 1500!!! Again this year the person responsible for the largest single block of points was Ozzie who brought in about 750 points, 50 points in contacts and 700 bonus points.

Our contacts broke down like this: 5 contacts on solar power (FM, one point each but 100 bonus points) 10 packet contacts (two points each and another 100 bonus points) 786 phone contacts at one point each and 139 cw contacts at two points each.

The total contact points were multiplied by two since we ran less than 150 watts, so each packet and cw contact ended up netting us 4 points and each phone contact netted us two points.

The contact points plus the bonus points brought us to 2878 points, and I think KB4YLY said we got another 500 points for running 5A. If that's the case we ended up with 3378! Either way, it was a pretty fair improvement over last year's 1600. A special, special thanks go out to Ozzie and Wayne for their work on bonus points and antennas. These two made a very real difference this year.

One last round of thanks are in order, this was the first field in my memory that we actually had people milling around in the wee small hours of the morning. In the past it all to often degenerated to one or two people manning the rigs from about 2 AM to 7 AM. A heartfelt thanks to all the brave souls that turned out for the vampire shift.

Points by band/mode:

| BAND | PHONE | CW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| 80 | 204 | 0 | 204 |
| 40 | 278 | 516 | 794 |
| 20 | 340 | 40 | 380 |
| 15 | 366 | 0 | 366 |
| 10 | 384 | 0 | 384 |

**Open Mouth...**

fireworks should be handled by "professionals" to enhance the safety of this event. In order to show our support to the JayCees, the TARC will convene on half hour early (6:30 p.m.), take care of business, and then proceed to City Hall and attend the City Council meeting covering this topic.

See you at the meeting.

73s, Bud – K4CWG

The **TARC Newsletter** is published on a monthly basis. Articles are published based on their newsworthiness to TARC membership, space available, and ease of entry to the publishing medium.

Preferred transfer methods are EMail to *Doug Reed* at Tech-Talk BBS, EMail on 2 meter packet to N4QVY@KB4LB or N4QVY@WD4HIM, direct packet, 3.5" AmigaDOS 880K disk, 3.5" MS-DOS 360K disk, 5.25" MS-DOS 360K disk, direct landline modem, and print / hand-written / hardcopy formats, in that order. Separate each paragraph with a blank line for ease of formatting a publishing format.

Article / classified deadline is two Fridays prior to the date of monthly meeting. The next deadline is **August 11**.

Articles may be given to the editor, Doug – N4QVY, at the IHOP on net nights, or left with Bud – K4CWG, where it will hopefully make its way to the aforementioned editor.

**TNX...**

field day.

And where would we be without **Ron, N4SCZ**, his wife **Vicki** and **Al, WD4HIH**? Probably a few pounds lighter. As it is I need to go on a diet. YOU TOO BUD! A special TNX to the three of you.

And to you **Ozzie, N4SCY**, who's dedicated effort in Packet, admin, and PR carried this club to the best point total to date. Outstanding –– TNX.

AND a very special TNX to those hams who contributed, helped, operated, and setup/cleanup:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| W3BH | N4DQT | KB4MXO | K4SJC |
| K4BZJ | K4EOS | N4QVY | KA4WIQ |
| K4CWG | W4EPU | N4SCY | W4VQB |
| KB4DCZ | WD4HIH | N4SCZ | K4ZS** |
| WN3DHI | WD4IZU | N4SDI | WB4ZUY |
| W3DIT | WA4HSY | WB4SIG | WB4ZUZ* |

* pizza included

** TNX for your call.

TNX to all those who dropped in.

nd a special TNX to **Dennis, N4SDI**, who has listened me moan and complain and has given me words of ncouragement through the past year. He kept me company through the wee hours of field day. For Dennis field day was a special effort from a special friend.

TNX all and 73, de KB4YLY

## The Editor's Desk

A REAL BIG THANK YOU to all of this month's contributors: Dennis, Val, Wynn, Oz, Wayne, and Bud. You guys *really* make putting this thing together alot easier. I've seen some newsletters where virtually every article was written by the editor. This time it was a real chore to squeeze everything else enough to fit in this little note.

I suppose that the issue after Field Day should be called the 'Special Thank You' issue. One more TNX goes out to Bud. On any given day before Field Day, if you caught Bud talking to any other Ham, whether in our club or not, you'd hear him 'influencing' the individual to get involved. So, Bud, this Attaboy's for you!

W4 VQB
Bob Nedimyer
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YOUR CLUB DUES EXPIRE: JAN 90
73 GL ES GUD DX de TARC !